

Looking Forward.....The Future of Me **Teresa Seely**

As I come to the end of my Masters Degree program, I can honestly say that I have grown, both personally and professionally during my studies at Michigan State University. With each new school year, I know there will be a lot to learn about each child I teach. I plan to use the information I have gathered in my Master's Degree courses to make their **learning experiences better** every day. As a teacher of young children, my goal and responsibility is to develop ways to impact each child's **attitude towards learning**. I plan to always keep in mind that a child's school experience can be positive or negative and that I help set the tone for their academic accomplishments.

On a personal note, I would like to continue my quest to be a **lifelong learner**, both inside and outside of the classroom environment. This personal goal includes my pursuit in learning more about digital photography and web page design. I would like to develop these skills to create visual references for various personal and professional areas of my life. I would also **enjoy creating** a classroom website with my students to establish a shared online experience about what we are learning in the classroom. I plan to learn more about the best ways to integrate technology into my daily routines. I would really like my students to be comfortable with technological advances and I know that I will need to step out of my comfort zone with technology to be a good example of a learner. I believe that by demonstrating to my students that I as well am always learning new things, they in turn may be more willing to step outside of their comfort zone to learn new things.

In the future, my professional goal is to continue teaching at my current school and continue to develop my pedagogy through the years. Teaching at an at risk school presents many challenges and I would like to learn more about working with the group of students we teach. Through collaborative efforts with my fellow teachers, I plan to be part of a **professional learning community**. As a person who wants to help children in all areas of their lives, I want to learn how to work around some the most pressing social problems in our school community. These roadblocks are preventing my students from becoming successful, so it is up to me to help my students become **life-long learners** and productive members of our society.

Philosophies of education are constantly changing and I plan to continue learning more about effective practices. As our early elementary curriculum becomes more demanding all over the country, I will study ways to modify my teaching techniques to meet the new learning goals and end of the year expectations for my grade level. I do believe when teachers share their **personal teaching experiences** and thoughts on education with each other, the more equipped we will be to handle the many changes taking place within our schools. In the future, I will expand my methods of teaching to help every student meet their learning goals by providing differentiated and individualized instruction. I plan to continue striving to understand each child's personal learning style so that they will be able to reach their **highest educational potential**. Teachers should never stop their pursuit of effective educational practices and I expect to continuously develop myself as teacher. I see future self as a teacher who will research new ways to accommodate the plethora of **different learning styles** in every class I teach.

Personal relationships are very important to me and as I strive to develop relationships with each student, I understand my responsibility in being a **positive role model**. I want to gain a better understanding and display compassion for my students at all times, under every circumstance, when teaching. As a member of our diverse and **multicultural world**, I plan to learn more about the dynamics of the families and community I work in. I will teach my students through example by displaying

sensitivity to others and equal treatment of every person I encounter. I plan to use teachable moments in order to help my students develop positive friendships, a natural love of learning and a sense of personal accomplishment. These can occur during the smallest moments of our school day. This is a goal by me, yet it benefits my students because they need to have adults in their lives that they can model.

Through this process, I have realized that my main goal is to be an enthusiastic teacher who continually displays my own *genuine love of learning*. This goal will be met through me displaying a personal curiosity about learning new topics and sharing my new discoveries with my students. My teaching philosophy of leading by example will be the cornerstone of how I plan to conduct myself in the future. With a combination of all of the above factors, I will ensure that all students who pass through my doors will leave with the necessary, grade-appropriate academic and social skills to enhance their *educational and personal success* in the future. My students will know how capable they are as learners and help them to gain independence to help them become confident students as they go through school.